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ABSTRACT

A total of 170 students were sampled in five vocational-technical centers in Montana in a survey to assess the student's perception of his school, its programs and policies, and the degree of student satisfaction with his progress, the staff, and facilities at the center. The questionnaire was divided into two parts: Goals of the Institution, which asked students to indicate if their institution "Does" or "Does Not," and "Should" or "Should Not" adhere to each of 33 presumptive goals listed for Montana's vocational-technical centers; part 2 asked questions concerning the student's view of his education. Responses to the Vocational-Technical Student Questionnaire are tabulated. An appendix lists members of the Vocational-Technical Sub-Committee of the Technical Group on Survey Research. (NH)

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MONTANA COMMISSION ON POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

STUDENT SURVEY
VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL CENTERS

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STAFF REPORT NO. 7
VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL STUDENT SURVEY

Prepared for

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May, 1974

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VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL STUDENT SURVEY

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

The five vocational-technical center representatives of the Technical Group on Survey Research formed a sub-committee* for the purpose of developing a questionnaire to assess the vo-tech center student's perception of his school, its programs and policies; and the degree of student satisfaction with his progress and the staff and facilities at the center.

During the course of two meetings, the sub-committee reviewed several survey instruments which had been utilized for vocational-technical students in other states, and ultimately developed the questionnaire items which can be found beginning on Page 4.

A total of 170 students were sampled in the five vo-tech centers. The breakdown for each center was as follows:

Butte	25	(Total enrollment - 279)
Billings	25	(Total enrollment - 270)
Great Falls	35	(Total enrollment - 311)
Helena	35	(Total enrollment - 387)
Missoula	50	(Total enrollment - 587)

The individual members of the sub-committee administered the questionnaire to the students at their respective institutions. The members agreed to select a cross-section of students to assure a distribution relative to a) program in which enrolled; b) age; c) sex; and d) ethnic background.

The survey instrument was "pre-tested" at the Bozeman Vo-Tech School on a sample of 27 students. The purpose of the pre-test was to determine if the questions and the directions for completion of the instrument could be understood by the vocational-technical student. A few problems were uncovered by this pre-test and the instrument was corrected accordingly before utilization at the vocational-technical centers.

After the questionnaire had been administered at the centers, each member of the sub-committee tabulated the responses at his

*See Appendix A page 10.

center and sent the questionnaires and the results to the Commission office, where the composite for the five centers was compiled.

The questionnaire was divided into two parts: "Goals of the Institution" and "The Student's View of His Education". For Part I, the instructions to the student were as follows:

> "You will find listed below 33 presumptive goals or aims of Montana's Vocational-Technical Centers. Please indicate below each goal whether you believe your Center presently adheres to such goal (DOES), does not adhere to such goal (DOES NOT), should adhere to such goal (SHOULD), and/or should not adhere to such goal (SHOULD NOT). As an example, if you believe that a certain goal is presently a policy of your Center, but should not be a policy of your Center, you should indicate both DOES and SHOULD NOT."

Part II of the questionnaire was self-explanatory, and thus did not contain special instructions.

On the pages which follow, the composite responses from the five centers are displayed.

DISPLAY OF SURVEY RESULTS

RESPONSES TO VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE

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PART I - GOALS OF THE INSTITUTION

DO YOU BELIEVE YOUR CENTER....	DOES	DOES NOT	SHOULD	SHOULD NOT
1....helps students identify their own goals and provides them with a means of achieving them?	154	12	154	2
2....increases the desire and ability of students to educate themselves?	154	16	151	2
3....helps students develop self-confidence and an interest in involving themselves in solutions to the problems of our society?	115	51	149	6
4....attempts to interest students in life-long learning?	114	51	140	17
5....attempts to ensure that students who graduate have achieved an adequate level of reading, writing and mathematics competency (in addition to their chosen vocational program)?	134	30	140	15
6....helps students be honest and trusting in their relationships with others?	129	35	144	10
7....helps students understand and respect people from different backgrounds and cultures?	105	58	148	12
8....provides adequate opportunities for students to prepare for their chosen occupational careers (for example, accounting, nursing, etc.)?	162	7	149	2
9....provides opportunities for adult or continuing education on a part-time basis in the local area?	148	18	151	1
10...develops educational programs which keep pace with new and emerging career fields?	141	25	151	2
11...offers upgrading programs in occupations such as practical nursing, secretarial, mechanics, etc.?	151	15	149	0
12...provides re-training opportunities for individuals whose job skills have not kept pace with current trends in their occupations?	136	29	152	2

RESPONSES TO VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE (Cont'd)

PART I

DO YOU BELIEVE YOUR CENTER....	DOES	DOES NOT	SHOULD	SHOULD NOT
13...assists students in deciding upon a career?	114	59	144	14
14...provides properly-trained manpower for local area business, industry and government?	151	14	153	2
15...attempts to ensure that people from disadvantaged communities acquire knowledge and skills they can use in improving conditions in their own communities?	133	31	144	8
16...maintains a policy of open admissions and develops meaningful training for all who are admitted in their chosen occupational fields?	150	15	153	0
17...offers remedial programs in basic skills (reading, writing, mathematics)?	125	39	139	14
18...is responsive to local and national concerns and needs when developing new training programs?	126	36	149	4
19...has developed a system of operating the Center which is responsive to the concerns of the students as well as the instructors, etc.?	126	36	156	1
20...maintains an atmosphere which encourages the instructors to be as deeply committed to the goals and well-being of the Center as a whole as to their involvement with developing the careers of the students?	128	38	152	2
21...ensures the freedom of the students to choose their own life styles (mode of dress, etc.)?	117	51	132	21
22...has developed arrangements by which students, instructors and administrators can all be involved in decisions about the operation of the Center?	111	55	147	8

RESPONSES TO VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE (Cont'd)

PART I

DO YOU BELIEVE YOUR CENTER...	DOES	DOES NOT	SHOULD	SHOULD NO
23...maintains an atmosphere in which the views of everybody connected with the Center can be openly and honestly expressed?	133	35	150	3
24...maintains an atmosphere in which differences of opinion can be expressed openly?	136	30	154	2
25...maintains an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect among students, instructors and administrators?	131	32	151	1
26...creates an atmosphere in which students and instructors may easily come together for informal discussion of ideas and mutual interests?	140	28	154	0
27...experiments with different methods of assessing and grading student performance?	112	52	141	13
28...experiments with new methods of instruction and program development?	132	30	147	8
29...awards certificates to individuals solely on the basis of their performance?	101	61	119	28
30...regularly demonstrates that the Center is actually achieving its stated goals?	118	45	146	5
31...involves itself in continuous planning for the Center?	157	7	152	0
32...has achieved unanimous agreement among people at the school about the goals of the Center?	99	62	134	20
33...offers job placement assistance to the students upon completion of their programs?	156	12	151	0

RESPONSES TO VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE (Cont'd)

PART II - THE STUDENT'S VIEW OF HIS EDUCATION

34. Which statement below best describes your satisfaction with your current training program?

I am highly satisfied	66
I am satisfied	88
I am dissatisfied but don't plan to change	11
I am dissatisfied and plan to change	4
I have no opinion	1

35. Are you acquiring the specific occupational skills and knowledge directly applicable to a job?

Yes, definitely satisfied	91
Yes, but it could be improved	70
Fair	5
Poor, needs much improvement	1
No, I'm not happy with the training	1
I have no opinion	1

36. How would you rate the training equipment and facilities in your vocational program?

Good, up-to-date, like those on the job	99
Acceptable, but could use some improvement	60
Fair, substantial improvement required	8
Bad, out-of-date, not like those on the job	1
I have no opinion	0

37. How would you rate the teaching of your instructors at this school?

Most teach well	94
The majority teach well, but some do not	69
The majority do not teach well, but some do	4
Most do not teach well	1
I have no opinion	2

PART II

38. How would you rate the knowledge your instructors possess about their fields?

Most are up-to-date in their knowledge	137
The majority are up-to-date, but some are not	30
The majority are not up-to-date, but some are	1
Most are not up-to-date in their knowledge	0
I have no opinion	1

39. How would you rate the interest shown toward you by your instructors?

Most are interested in my progress	116
The majority are interested, but some are not	37
The majority are not interested, but some are	11
Most are not interested in my progress	0
I have no opinion	4

40. How would you rate your instructors' knowledge of the world of work?

Most are well-informed	143
The majority are well-informed, but some are not	21
The majority are not well-informed, but some are	2
Most are not well-informed	0
I have no opinion	4

MEMBERS OF THE VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE TECHNICAL GROUP ON SURVEY RESEARCH

Members

Dave Keltz, Butte Vocational-Technical Center
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